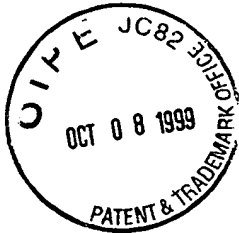


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

TRANSMITTAL FOR INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents
and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for filing and pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 is an Information Disclosure Statement.

Enclosed also are the following designated documents, as required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98:

- X Form PTO-1449 list of fourteen (14) references submitted for consideration.
- X Legible copies of the listed references or their relevant portions.
- All English translations of each nonenglish reference, if any, within the possession, custody, control or availability of anyone designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(c)).

The following are included within the Information Disclosure Statement if applicable and as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98:

- Concise explanation of relevance of each reference not in English and unaccompanied by an English translation.

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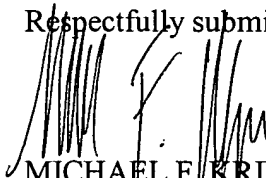
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed are substantially cumulative of an enclosed reference.
- Statement that certain listed references not enclosed were previously cited by or submitted to the Office in the identified prior application which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120.

In order to secure consideration of the items designated above, one or more of the following, if required, is also enclosed:

- Promptness Certification.
- Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ constituting submission fee -- see 37 C.F.R. 1.17(p)
- Petition for Consideration and Check No. _____ in the amount of \$ _____ -- see 37 C.F.R. 1.17(i)(1).
- In the event that 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) applies and the Examiner is not satisfied that the Promptness Certification meets the requirements of 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e), or in any other event remediable by a fee, please credit any over payment or charge any additional fees to Deposit Account No. 500843 of the undersigned.

Dated this 4th day of October, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,


MICHAEL F. KRIEGER
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entirety) of which the undersigned is presently aware, and no art which is closer to the claimed invention (taken in its entirety) has been knowingly withheld.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, a copy of each of the listed references or relevant portion thereof is also enclosed.

Since all listed references are either in the English language or are accompanied by a translation into English, no concise explanation of relevance is required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3).

Dated this 4th day of October, 1999.

Respectfully submitted,


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LYNN Y. SHIMADA

A circular ink stamp from the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The text "UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" is curved along the top and right inner edge of the circle. In the center, the date "OCT 08 1999" is stamped in a bold, sans-serif font. The bottom of the circle is open.

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